receiving a remote revision status from a remote computer at the main computer;

comparing the remote revision status with the main revision status;

transmitting updated constant data stored in the memory of the main computer that is different from the constant data stored in the memory of the remote computer from the main computer to the remote computer to permit the remote computer to store the updated constant data;

transmitting variable data related to the at least one product from the main computer to the remote computer; and

transmitting display instructions from the main computer to the remote computer to permit the remote computer to combine constant data related to the at least one product with the variable data related to the at least one product to generate the information data related to the at least one product including both constant data and variable data.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of receiving a product selection from the remote computer for which product information is desired prior to the step of receiving the remote revision status from the remote computer at the main computer.

a1 cont'd

27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of automatically connecting the remote computer to the main computer prior to the step of receiving a product selection.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of automatically disconnecting the remote computer from the main computer after the variable data related to the selected product and the display instructions are transmitted from the main computer to the remote computer.

29. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the display instructions indicate a format of the variable data and a display location of the constant data relative to the variable data.

30. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the constant data stored in the memory of the main computer and the constant data stored in the memory of the remote computer each include both graphics data and textual data.

31. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of receiving a request for variable data related to the a selected product from the remote computer at the main computer prior to the step of transmitting variable data from the main computer to the remote computer.

32. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the display instructions include a map transmitted from the main computer to the remote computer along with the variable data to permit the remote computer generate the information data.

33. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of transmitting updated constant data further includes the step of transmitting a new remote revision status identical to the main revision status from the main computer to the remote computer.

34. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the remote computer stores a computer program and a remote program revision status in the memory of the remote computer, the remote program revision status indicating a revision level of the computer program stored in the memory of the remote computer, the method further comprising the steps of:

maintaining the latest revisions of a computer program and a main program revision status in the memory of the main computer, the main program revision status indicating the revision level of the computer program stored in the memory of the main computer;

receiving a remote program revision status from the remote computer at the main computer;

comparing the remote program revision status to the main program revision status; and

transmitting updated portions of the computer program stored and maintained in the memory of the main computer that are different from the computer program stored in the memory of the remote computer from the main computer to the remote computer.

35. (New) An electronic catalog system which generates product information data related to at least one product on a remote computer including a remote memory which stores constant data and a remote revision status related to the constant data stored in remote memory, the constant data being a subset of information data related to the at least one product, the system comprising:

a main computer including a main memory that stores variable data, constant data and a main revision status related to the constant data stored in the main memory;

means for receiving a product selection and a remote revision status from a remote computer at the main computer;

means for comparing the remote revision status with the main revision status;

means for selecting updated constant data stored in the main memory that is different from constant data stored in the remote memory;

means for transmitting the updated constant data stored in the main memory from the main computer to the remote computer to permit the remote computer to store the updated constant data received from the main computer in the remote memory;

means for transmitting variable data related to the selected product stored in the main memory from the main computer to the remote computer; and

means for transmitting display instructions from the main computer to the remote computer to permit the remote computer to combine constant data related to the selected product stored in the remote memory with the variable data related to the selected product received from the main computer to generate the product information data related to the selected product including both constant data and variable data.

36. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the display instructions include a map generated at the main computer.

37. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the means for transmitting the updated constant data stored in the main memory from the main computer to the remote computer also transmits an updated remote revision status identical to the main revision status from the main computer to the remote computer.

a1 cont'd

38. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the main revision status indicates the last time the constant data stored in the memory of the main computer was updated, and the remote revision status indicates the last time constant data stored in the memory of the remote computer was updated.

39. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein a computer program and a remote program revision status are stored in the memory of the remote computer, the remote program revision status indicating the revision level of the computer program stored in the memory of the remote computer, the system further comprising means for maintaining the latest revisions of the computer program and a main program revision status in the memory of the main computer, the main program revision status indicating the revision level of the computer program stored in the memory of the main computer, means for receiving a remote program revision status from the remote computer at the main computer, means for comparing the remote program revision status to the main program revision status, means for determining updated portions of the computer program stored in the main computer that are different from the computer program stored in the remote computer, and means for transmitting the updated portions of the computer program from the main computer to the remote computer to permit the remote computer to replace portions of the computer program

stored in the memory of the remote computer with the updated portions received from the main computer.

40. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the display instructions indicate a format of the variable data and a display location of the constant data relative to the variable data.

41. (New) A method for providing product information data related to a selected product stored in a vendor's main computer to a customer's remote computer, a first subset of product data including graphics data related to at least one product being stored in a memory of the remote computer, the method comprising:

storing product data including graphics data and textual data related to a plurality of products in a memory of the main computer;

receiving a data request query related to at least one selected product from a remote computer;

identifying a second subset of product data including graphics data and textual data related to the selected product from the product data stored in the memory of the main computer based on the data request query;

transmitting the textual data from second subset of product data from the main computer to the remote computer;

transmitting only updated graphics data from the second subset of product data that is different from the graphics data in the first subset of product data from the main computer to the remote computer so that the updated graphics data is stored in the memory of the remote computer; and

transmitting display instructions from the main computer to the remote computer to permit the remote computer to combine the textual data from the second subset of product data received from the main computer with graphics data related to the selected product stored in the memory of the remote computer to provide complete product information data related to the selected product including both graphics and textual data.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the remote computer stores a computer program and a remote program revision status in the memory of the remote computer, the remote program revision status indicating a revision level of the computer program stored in the memory of the remote computer, the method further comprising the steps of:

maintaining the latest revisions of a computer program and a main program revision status in the memory of the main computer, the main program revision status indicating the revision level of the computer program stored in the memory of the main computer;

receiving a remote program revision status from the remote computer at the main computer;

comparing the remote program revision status to the main program revision status; and

transmitting updated portions of the computer program stored and maintained in the memory of the main computer that are different from the computer program stored in the memory of the remote computer from the main computer to the remote computer.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the transmitting display instructions step includes transmitting a map from the main computer to the remote computer.

44. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising automatically establishing a data link between the remote computer and the main computer prior to the receiving step, and automatically disconnecting the data link between the remote computer and the main computer after the transmitting steps.

45. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the display instructions indicate a format of the textual data and a display location of the graphics data relative to the textual data.

46. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the remote computer stores a remote revision status in the memory of the remote computer, the remote revision status providing an indication of the last time the graphics data stored in the remote computer was updated, the method further comprising the steps of storing a main revision status in the memory of the main computer, the main revision status providing an indication of the last time the graphics data stored in the main computer was updated, receiving a remote revision status from the remote computer at the main computer, comparing the remote revision status with the main revision status prior to the step of and transmitting updated graphics data from the main computer to the remote computer.

47. (New) A method for providing product information data related to a selected product stored in a vendor's main computer to a customer's remote computer, a first subset of product data including constant data related to at least one of the plurality of products being stored in a memory of the remote computer, the method comprising:

storing product data including constant data and variable data related to a plurality of products in a memory of the main computer;

receiving a data request query related to at least one selected product from a remote computer at the main computer;

identifying a second subset of product data including constant and variable data related to the at least one selected product from the product data stored in the memory of the main computer based on the data request query;

transmitting variable data from second subset of product data from the main computer to the remote computer;

transmitting only updated constant data from the second subset of product data that is different from the constant data in the first subset of product data from the main computer to the remote computer so that the updated constant data is stored in the memory of the remote computer; and

transmitting display instructions from the main computer to the remote computer to permit the remote computer to combine the variable data received from the main computer with constant data related to the selected product stored in the memory of the remote computer to provide complete product information related to the selected product.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the remote computer stores a computer program and a remote program revision status in the memory of the remote computer, the remote program revision status indicating a revision level of the computer program stored in the memory of the remote computer, the method further comprising the steps of:

maintaining the latest revisions of a computer program and a main program revision status in the memory of the main computer, the main program revision status indicating the revision level of the computer program stored in the memory of the main computer;

receiving a remote program revision status from the remote computer at the main computer;

comparing the remote program revision status to the main program revision status; and

transmitting updated portions of the computer program stored and maintained in the memory of the main computer that are different from the computer program stored in the memory of the remote computer from the main computer to the remote computer.

49. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the display instructions include a map to permit the remote computer to combine the variable data and the constant data.

50. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising automatically establishing a data link between the remote computer and the main computer prior to the receiving step, and automatically disconnecting the data link between the remote computer and the main computer after the last transmitting step.